

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A biological assay device ~~obtainable~~ produced by a method ~~according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:~~

- (a) providing an acidified sol suspension;
- (b) at least partially neutralizing the acidified sol suspension to form a neutralized sol suspension;
- (c) contacting an electrically conductive surface with the neutralized sol suspension, wherein the electrically conductive substrate is a microneedle or a microelectrode; and
- (d) applying an electrical potential to the electrically conductive surface to cause a layer of sol-gel to form on the surface of the electrically conductive surface.

27. (Currently Amended) A biological assay device comprising:

- (i) an electrically conductive substrate, wherein the electrically conductive substrate is a microneedle or a microelectrode; and,
- (ii) a sol-gel comprising one or more biological materials.

28. (Currently Amended) A The biological assay device ~~according to~~ of claim 27, wherein the sol-gel is obtained from a mixture comprising a mercaptan-containing silane and/or a bisfunctional silane.

29. (Previously Presented) The biological assay device of claim 26 further comprising a potentiometer.

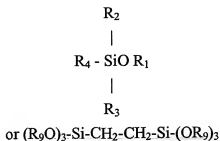
30. (Canceled)

31. (New) The biological assay device of claim 26, further comprising the step of adding one or more biological materials to the neutralized sol suspension, prior to applying the electrical potential to the electrically conductive surface (step C).
32. (New) The biological assay device of claim 31, wherein the one or more biological materials is an enzyme, antibody, fragment of an antibody, nucleic acid, polysaccharide, oligosaccharide, biomimetic polymers, virus, microorganism or a whole cell.
33. (New) The biological assay device of claim 27, wherein the one or more biological materials is an enzyme, antibody, fragment of an antibody, nucleic acid, polysaccharide, oligosaccharide, biomimetic polymers, virus, microorganism or a whole cell.
34. (New) The biological assay device of claim 32, wherein the enzyme is xanthine oxidase, glucose oxidase, lactate oxidase, cholesterol oxidase, galactose oxidase, glutamate oxidase, horse radish peroxidase, polyphenol oxidase, D-fructose dehydrogenase, L-glutamate dehydrogenase, alcohol dehydrogenase, (such as methanol dehydrogenase), urease, uricase, lactate dehydrogenase, glutamic pyruvic transaminase, creatinase, sarcosine oxidase, glutaminase, nucleoside phosphorylase, ascorbate oxidase, cytochrome C oxidase, adenosine deaminase, D- or L-amino acid oxidase, tyrosinase or choline dehydrogenase or a combination thereof.
35. (New) The biological assay device of claim 33, wherein the enzyme is xanthine oxidase, glucose oxidase, lactate oxidase, cholesterol oxidase, galactose oxidase, glutamate oxidase, horse radish peroxidase, polyphenol oxidase, D-fructose dehydrogenase, L-glutamate dehydrogenase, alcohol dehydrogenase (such as methanol dehydrogenase), urease, uricase, lactate dehydrogenase, glutamic pyruvic transaminase, creatinase, sarcosine oxidase, glutaminase, nucleoside phosphorylase, ascorbate oxidase, cytochrome C oxidase, adenosine deaminase, D- or L-amino acid oxidase, tyrosinase or choline dehydrogenase or a combination thereof.
36. (New) The biological assay device of claim 32, wherein two or more enzymes are used.
37. (New) The biological assay device of claim 33, wherein two or more enzymes are used.

38. (New) The biological assay device of claim 26, wherein the sol comprises a sol of alkoxysilane, alumina, colloidal metal hydroxide, ceramic oxide or zirconia.

39. (New) The biological assay device of claim 27, wherein the sol comprises a sol of alkoxysilane, alumina, colloidal metal hydroxide, ceramic oxide or zirconia.


40. (New) The biological assay device of claim 38, wherein the sol has the general formula:



where:

R_1 = straight chain, branched chain, cyclic, non-cyclic, saturated or non-saturated, substituted or non-substituted alkyl; substituted or non-substituted aryl; $-NR_5$; and $-COR_6$; preferably containing 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbons;

R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from; straight chain and branched chain, cyclic or non-cyclic, saturated or non-saturated alkyl; $-COR_6$; $-O$ -alkyl; and $-O-COR_6$; $-R_7R_8$; $R_7N(R_6)_2$ and $R_7NHR_6R_8$; preferably containing 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 carbon atoms;

R_5 = branched or non-branched cyclic or non-cyclic, saturated or non-saturated alkyl;
 or 
 , preferably containing 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 carbon atoms;

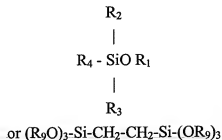
R_6 = C_1 to C_3 alkyl;

R_7 = C_1 to C_6 alkyl, especially C_1 , C_2 or C_3 alkyl;

R_8 = Epoxy, $-NH_2$ or $-SH$; especially $-CH_2-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$

R_9 = Straight or branched C_1 to C_6 alkyl.


41. (New) The biological assay device of claim 39, wherein the sol has the general formula:



where:

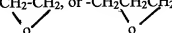
R_1 = straight chain, branched chain, cyclic, non-cyclic, saturated or non-saturated, substituted or non-substituted alkyl; substituted or non-substituted aryl; $-NR_5$; and $-COR_6$; preferably containing 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbons;

R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from; straight chain and branched chain, cyclic or non-cyclic, saturated or non-saturated alkyl; $-COR_6$; $-O$ -alkyl; and $-O-COR_6$; $-R_7R_8$; $R_7N(R_6)_2$ and $R_7NHR_6R_8$; preferably containing 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 carbon atoms;

R_5 = branched or non-branched cyclic or non-cyclic, saturated or non-saturated alkyl;
 or 
 , preferably containing 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 carbon atoms;

R_6 = C_1 to C_3 alkyl;

R_7 = C_1 to C_6 alkyl, especially C_1 , C_2 or C_3 alkyl;

R_8 = Epoxy, $-NH_2$ or $-SH$; especially $-CH_2-CH_2-$, or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$


R_9 = Straight or branched C_1 to C_6 alkyl.

42. (New) The biological assay device of claim 40, wherein the sol is methyltrimethoxysilane (MeTMOS) or tetramethylsilicate (TMOS).
43. (New) The biological assay device of claim 41, wherein the sol is methyltrimethoxysilane (MeTMOS) or tetramethylsilicate (TMOS).
44. (New) The biological assay device of claim 26, further comprising adding a silane coupling agent.
45. (New) The biological assay device of claim 44, comprising incorporating functionalized or non-functionalized APTEOS into the neutralized sol suspension.
46. (New) The biological assay device of claim 45, wherein the APTEOS is functionalized with a ferrocene, gluconamide or a lactiobionic group.
47. (New) The biological assay device of claim 27, further comprising a silane coupling agent.
48. (New) The biological assay device of claim 47, further comprising functionalized or non-functionalized APTEOS
49. (New) The biological assay device of claim 47, wherein the APTEOS is functionalized with a ferrocene, gluconamide or a lactiobionic group.